

advice given here regarding the management of ichthyosis is excellent. Only one of the chapters, namely that on fungal infections of the skin is illustrated. One of the longest chapters is that on the management of warts which reflects the nuisance value of this condition not only in hospitals but in general practice. In spite of this long chapter the opening sentence is the one I like best—"The best way of managing warts is to let them manage themselves".

J.M.B.

WARD PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES. By Philip Cooper, M.D. (Pp. xii+303; illustrated. 50s). New York: Appleton-Century and London: Butterworth, 1967.

THE intention of the author is that this book should give "a basic introduction to ward procedures and techniques for clinical clerks, interns, residents. It is intended not only to aid trainees by giving them a better comprehension of these procedures and techniques so that they may perform them intelligently, efficiently and safely, but also to lessen their bewilderment and their anxieties as they start their clinical work". The book should fulfil this aim. It is well written, clear and concise. There is remarkably little repetition, yet hardly any need for cross reference. The price at 50s for a 300 page, 30 chapter paperback is perhaps slightly high for the individual student or houseman. The book should, however, have a most useful role as a ward bench-book, readily available to pre-registration residents and senior house officers.

While the detail of technique recommended might not follow the exact steps currently in vogue in a specialist unit, fundamental general principles are not overlooked. The procedures commonly performed in a unit are not the troublesome ones for a houseman. He soon learns these. It is those not so commonly undertaken which cause anxiety. This book deals with a great number of procedures, ranging from those connected with pre-operative management, through routine diagnostic techniques and more complicated diagnostic (and therapeutic) procedures to post-operative management and the treatment of complications, both general and those following specialist surgery. It contains much useful information, but for house surgeons and senior house officers the chapters on wound care and post-operative drainage are particularly helpful.

The main weakness is in those sections dealing with specialist procedures such as angiography and cardiac catheterization. Here perhaps too much detail is given for some procedures not usually performed by the junior trainee. He can best learn from a combination of watching and asking the expert, reference to more comprehensive monographs, and practice under supervision. The occasional reference to "Dakin's solution" or "Sims position", without further description is mildly irritating. The first chapter dealing with conventional American ward rounds is not particularly relevant to this country. These are, however, but minor criticisms of a basically sound and good book.

W.A.H.

PATHOLOGY by the late J. L. Pinniger and revised by J. R. Tighe. Second Edition. (Pp. 288. 21s). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1967.

A second edition has been called for in three years and revisions in many sections have been made by Dr. Tighe.

While one may hold that the approach to pathology should be through general pathology integrated with the basic medical sciences, and that a larger canvas is needed even to introduce the subject, it must be admitted that the authors have produced a readable and highly informative text integrated with clinical practice. The authors justify the absence of illustrations by emphasising that the student should see diseased tissues at autopsies and in surgical specimens and under the microscope and should study colour transparencies. We think the student should also supplement the material given here by further reading, but students may find this a useful introduction and a help in organising their knowledge before examinations.

J.E.M.